

A. Amendments to the Claims

10. (currently amended) A method for determining the presence of human blood, comprising:

providing a test device including a strip having a test sample introduction station, a test station, and a control station, said stations disposed in spaced apart relationship, said test sample introduction station including labeled antihuman Hb antibodies, said test station including immobilized antihuman Hb antibodies, and said control station including immobilized polyclonal antibodies;

depositing a test sample containing human hemoglobin Hb antigen at said test sample introduction station;

allowing said human hemoglobin Hb antigen to bind with some of said labeled antihuman Hb antibodies to form a complex, both said complex and unbound labeled antihuman Hb antibodies to migrate to said test station, at said test station said complex to bind with said immobilized antihuman Hb antibodies [releasing the labels] thereby providing a visual indication, said unbound labeled antihuman Hb antibodies to migrate to said control station, and, at said control station said unbound labeled antihuman Hb antibodies to bind with said immobilized polyclonal antibodies [releasing the labels] thereby providing a visual indication; and,

observing said visual indications at both said test station and said control station, thereby confirming the presence of human blood.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10, further including providing immobilized human IgM antibodies disposed at said test station.

12. (original) The method according to claim 10, further including: taking about 10 minutes or less to perform said method.

13. (original) The method according to claim 10, further including: substituting primate hemoglobin Hb antigen for said human hemoglobin Hb antigen as said test sample.

14. (currently amended) A method for determining a lack of presence of human blood, comprising:

providing a test device including a strip having a test sample introduction station, a test station, and a control station, said stations disposed in spaced apart relationship, said test sample introduction station including labeled antihuman Hb antibodies, said test station including immobilized antihuman Hb antibodies, and said control station including immobilized polyclonal antibodies;

depositing a test sample containing no human hemoglobin Hb antigen at said test sample introduction station;

allowing unbound labeled antihuman Hb antibodies to migrate to said test station, at said test station no reaction taking place, said unbound labeled antihuman Hb antibodies to migrate to said control station, at said control station said unbound labeled antihuman Hb antibodies to bind with said immobilized polyclonal antibodies [releasing the labels] thereby providing a visual indication; and,

observing no visual indication at said test station, and observing said visual indication at said control station, thereby confirming a lack of presence of human blood.

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, further including providing immobilized human IgM antibodies disposed at said test station.

16. (original) The method according to claim 14, further including: taking about 10 minutes or less to perform said method.